

LATOYA CANTRELL, MAYOR
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

February 9, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: CITY OF NEW ORLEANS SOLID WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR RECYCLING
(SWIFR) PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

Dear Administrator Regan:

The City of New Orleans recently updated our Climate Action Plan, reaffirming the City's commitment to climate leadership and confronting the causes and impacts of climate change, and their existential threat to New Orleans' future. With an eye on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from solid waste, the Plan seeks to quintuple the current recycling diversion rate by 2030. The City of New Orleans has prepared a proposal for the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Program that will increase recycling in the city through additional residential recycling carts, solid waste planning, and educational outreach.

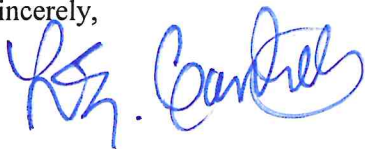
Organic waste in the City's trash and sewage is the source of about 6% of their community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the City estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. The City's latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal of reaching a 25% recycling rate by 2030.

Through this project, the City plans to expand its current residential curbside recycling collection program to all eligible households that have not already opted into the service. This will ensure universal and equitable access to curbside recycling and is anticipated to provide recycling access to about 74,000 new households. In addition, the city is proposing to develop a 10-year Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) that will develop a comprehensive waste diversion strategy and roadmap for the city. The SWMP will at a minimum include an evaluation of regional recycling processing infrastructure and capacity, explore opportunities and needs to allow for organics diversion including food waste, and propose infrastructure and policy needs to ensure waste diversion is happening in multifamily and commercial operations.

Finally, the City will work with national and community partners to educate residents on the benefits of recycling and what should be recycled in their residential carts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



LaToya Cantrell
Mayor, City of New Orleans

1300 PERDIDO STREET | SUITE 2E04 | NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | 70112
PHONE 504.658.4900 | FAX 504.658.4938 | WWW.NOLA.GOV



BILL CASSIDY, M.D.
LOUISIANA

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
SUITE SH-520
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5824

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
FINANCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW Ste 1101A
Washington, DC 20460-0001

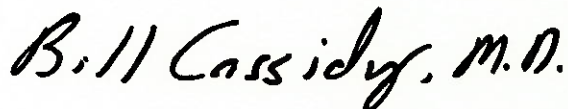
Dear Administrator Regan:

It has recently come to my attention that the City of New Orleans is applying for funding from the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Infrastructure grant program. They are requesting \$3,600,000 for a solid waste master plan. The city anticipates providing a match of \$50,000 and receiving a match of \$1.2 million from the recycling industry.

The City of New Orleans plans to use the funds to develop a 10-year solid waste master plan which includes a comprehensive waste diversion strategy and roadmap for the city. It is anticipated that the plan will address both recyclable materials and food waster. The goal of the masterplan is to increase the amount of discarded recyclable materials in New Orleans that is being recycled from the current five percent to twenty-five percent by 2030.

I appreciate your consideration of this application. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

BC/ME

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

February 3, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support—City of New Orleans Application to SWIFR Grant Program

Dear Administrator Regan:

I write today in support of the City of New Orleans' application for the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The City's proposed project will increase recycling in New Orleans through additional residential recycling carts, solid waste planning, and educational outreach.

Organic waste in New Orleans' trash and sewage is the source of about 6% of their community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, New Orleans estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. New Orleans' latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal of reaching a 25% recycling rate by 2030.

Through this project, New Orleans plans to expand its current residential curbside recycling collection program to all eligible households that have not already opted into the service. This will ensure universal and equitable access to curbside recycling and is anticipated to provide recycling access to about 74,000 new households. In addition, New Orleans is proposing to develop a 10-year Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) that will develop a comprehensive waste diversion strategy and roadmap for the city. The SWMP will at a minimum include an evaluation of regional recycling processing infrastructure and capacity, explore opportunities and needs to allow for organics diversion including food waste, and propose infrastructure and policy needs to ensure waste diversion is happening in multifamily and commercial operations. Finally, New Orleans will work with national and community partners to educate residents on the benefits of recycling and what should be recycled in their residential carts.

Thank you for your consideration of the City's proposal.

Sincerely
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".
John Bel Edwards
Governor

Office of the Lieutenant Governor
State of Louisiana

BILLY NUNGESSER
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 44243
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-4243
(225) 342-7009

January 23, 2023

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am contacting you today in support of the application from the City of New Orleans for the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The City's proposed project will increase recycling in the city through additional residential recycling carts, solid waste planning, and educational outreach.

Organic waste in the City's trash and sewage is the source of about 6% of their community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the City estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. The City's latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal of reaching a 25% recycling rate by 2030.

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Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this proposal. If I can be of assistance to you in any way, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billy Nungesser".

Billy Nungesser
Lieutenant Governor

WHN/jt



February 13, 2023

3801 Canal St., Suite 400
New Orleans, LA 70119

504.708.5862
la.audubon.org

Hon. Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Letter of Support – City of New Orleans Application to SWIFR Grant Program

Dear Administrator Regan,

Audubon Delta is the regional office of the National Audubon Society, encompassing the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, and representing close to 40,000 members. The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. Audubon has had a presence on the Gulf Coast for nearly a century and is invested thoroughly in the region.

We are contacting you today in support of the application from the City of New Orleans for the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The City's proposed project will increase recycling in the city through additional residential recycling carts, solid waste planning, and educational outreach.

Organic waste in the City's trash and sewage is the source of about 6% of their community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the City estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. The City's latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal of reaching a 25% recycling rate by 2030.

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Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Newman".

Brent Newman
Senior Policy Director, Audubon Delta



February 13, 2023

Hon. Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support—City of New Orleans Application to SWIFR Grant Program

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am contacting you today in support of the application from the City of New Orleans for the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The City's proposed project will increase recycling in the city through additional residential recycling carts, solid waste planning, and educational outreach.

Organic waste in the City's trash and sewage is the source of about 6% of their community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the City estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. The City's latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal of reaching a 25% recycling rate by 2030.

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Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,
Arthur Johnson
Arthur Johnson, CEO

5227 Chartres Street, Post Office Box 770407, New Orleans, Louisiana 70177-0407

Phone: (504)324-9955

Fax: (504)267-5583

www.sustainthenine.org blog.sustainthenine.org



10 PARISHES
Jefferson
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Plaquemines
St. Bernard
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St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington

February 10, 2023

Hon. Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support—City of New Orleans Application to SWIFR Grant Program

Dear Administrator Regan,

I am contacting you today, on behalf of Greater New Orleans, Inc., in support of the application by the City of New Orleans to the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The City's proposed project will increase recycling by deploying additional residential recycling carts, advancing solid waste planning, and conducting educational outreach. Critically, the project proposes to develop a 10-year Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) for the city that will articulate a comprehensive waste diversion strategy and roadmap.

The SWMP will be an important tool to reduce emissions and enhance public benefits to residents of New Orleans. Moreover, the SWMP can actually act to attract new economic engines and grow employment. Greater New Orleans, Inc. is the regional economic development for the ten parishes of Southeast Louisiana. We regularly receive interest from various industries about the reuse of municipal waste. This includes bioeconomy research and development prospects, demonstrating the reuse of waste into bio-based products, like bioplastics. Waste-to-energy facilities, including biogas and renewable fuels, are also developing throughout Louisiana. Not only is energy a key sector for our organization, but we are stewards of our historic food and beverage industry. There may be opportunities to unite regional food manufacturing facilities' byproducts and leverage municipal waste to power new thriving sectors.

The SWMP will include an evaluation of regional recycling processing infrastructure and capacity currently, while exploring opportunities and needs to allow for organics diversion, including food waste. The SWMP will also propose infrastructure improvements and policy reform to ensure that waste diversion is happening in multifamily and commercial operations. So, the SWMP can both connect residents and businesses with efficient waste management and allow for that same waste's lifecycle to extend, and become part of innovative sustainable solutions, while strengthening our region's economy.

Currently, the City estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. The City's latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal a 25% rate by 2030. Through this project, the City plans to expand its residential curbside recycling collection program to all eligible households not already participating. This will provide recycling access for about 74,000 new households, achieving universal and equitable access to curbside recycling. Thus, I thank you for careful consideration of this proposal to advance our region's sustainability and economy.

Respectfully,

Michael Hecht
President & CEO

January 16, 2023

Hon. Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Support—City of New Orleans Application to SWIFR Grant Program

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Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Kirsch
Vice President
Keep New Orleans Beautiful

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2023

Hon. Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

As the Representative for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District, I am writing you today to urge your full and fair consideration of the application from the City of New Orleans' for the Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling (SWIFR) Program. The City's proposed project will increase recycling in the city through additional residential recycling carts, solid waste planning, and educational outreach.

Organic waste in the City's trash and sewage is the source of about 6% of their community-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the City estimates that under 5% of recyclable materials are recycled and diverted from residential and commercial waste streams. The City's latest Climate Action Plan calls for significant investment in both infrastructure and public education to increase this waste diversion rate, with a goal of reaching a 25% recycling rate by 2030.

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Sincerely,



Trey A. Carter, Sr.

Member of Congress